

**National Children's Study
Exposure to Chemical Agents Working Group Meeting
March 3, 2004
Holiday Inn Select
Bethesda, MD**

This meeting was held in conjunction with the National Children's Study, which is led by a consortium of federal agency partners: [the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (including [the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development \[NICHD\]](#) and [the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \[NIEHS\]](#), two parts of [the National Institutes of Health](#), and [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \[CDC\]](#)) and the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#).

The Exposure to Chemical Agents Working Group met from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. prior to the National Children's Study Advisory Committee (NCSAC) Meeting on March 4–5, 2004.

Review of White Paper Status

The primary focus of the Exposure to Chemical Agents Working Group White Paper is the measurement and analysis of exposures to environmental pollutants and biological agents for the Study. The completed document will be approximately 200 pages and will contain the following sections:

- Introduction
- Relevant chemical and biological agents for different study hypotheses, with listings of specific hypotheses and exposure measurements needed to assess them
- Methods for measurement of exposures and candidate environmental chemicals and aeroallergens, with discussion of measurement methods strengths and weaknesses by pollutant class
- Methods for measurement of chemicals in biological media, including a comprehensive overview and review of biological monitoring state of the art
- Survey collection instruments for use in the Study and evaluation of exposure-related questionnaire instruments
- Study design issues related to exposure measurements for the Study, including an assessment of where exposure fits into the Study.

Working Group members reviewed the draft White Paper sections. There was a general discussion about the format and content of the summary tables. Preparation of the summary tables was done in subgroups, and then the tables were finalized in a group discussion.

The Working Group also determined which White Paper sections required further refinement. Section authors then met in subgroups to develop plans for revising the current report, including:

- Technical details
- Outlines
- Writing responsibilities
- Timelines.

The Working Group then reconvened to discuss final plans for the White Paper revisions and to discuss plans for submitting selected sections of the White Paper as articles to *Environmental Health Perspectives* as part of a mini-monograph series. How to generate an Executive Summary was also discussed.

A revised White Paper was submitted on April 26, 2004.

Advisory Committee Questions

The Working Group also discussed how to respond to the National Children's Study Advisory Committee (NCSAC) questions that had been posed to the group and the group's presentation at the NCSAC meeting on the following day.

Participants

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